



STATE OF ARIZONA
NATUROAPHTIC PHYSICIANS MEDICAL BOARD
FIVE-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN
FY 2015- FY 2019

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Executive Summary

The Naturopathic Physicians Medical Board (Board) was established pursuant to law Title 32, Chapter 14 (A.R.S. §32-1501, et. seq.), which regulates naturopathic physicians licensed in the State of Arizona. The Board also regulates naturopathic medical students certified for clinical training, graduates certified to participate in preceptorship training, and naturopathic medical assistants who work under the supervision of a licensed naturopathic physician. Further, the Board processes and issues certificates to dispense, and certificates to conduct preceptorship training to licensees. The Board functions to ensure the citizens of Arizona have a safe and dependable choice of healthcare providers when choosing a Naturopathic Physician.

In 2003, the State of Arizona Naturopathic Physicians Medical Board and the State of Arizona Massage Therapy Board were combined. The Massage Board laws were finalized in 2003 and began licensing in 2004. The Boards separated July 1, 2013. While combined, the boards shared the same office space and equipment. Appropriations and expenditures were combined and split by a percentage. In FY13, the total appropriation combined was \$587,500., with the naturopathic board receiving \$117,500. of the appropriation, approximately 20%. The total expenditures for FY13 was \$580,878. of which the naturopathic board paid \$118,660. Since the separation of the Boards, the Naturopathic Board has moved into a separate office space. The combination of the boards allowed for the consistent lowering of fees. Because of the separation, the Naturopathic Board increased its fees in by approximately 33%, which took affect September 16, 2013. The modest increase in fees allowed the Board to again, function on its own. The Naturopathic Board's total appropriation of FY14 was \$172,000, however; the Joint Legislative Budget Committee (JLBC) made some changes in the crosswalk and reduced our appropriation by \$13,100. During FY14, the Board's Budget Analyst requested the money be returned, however was unsuccessful. Based on the unanticipated reduction to the appropriation, agency spending was very conservative during FY14. The Board was unable to achieve automation of the renewal process for certificates issued by the Board, and continued to process by hand. HB2703 approved a supplemental of \$15,800 appropriated specific to costs associated with Board Hearings performed by the Office of Administrative Hearing. Unfortunately, the Board did not receive the appropriate until HB2703 passed. The bills language was specific to FY13-14, leaving only one month to use the appropriation. Anticipated hearings did not take place in July, and the money went primarily unused.

In January 2014, the State of Arizona Office of the Auditor General, notified the Board they would be conducting the performance audit as part of the sunset review process prescribed in A.R.S.§41-2951 et seq. The audit began in February of 2014, with the final published report due by October 1, 2014. Based on discussions with audit staff regarding preliminary findings, it is anticipated changes may be needed to be made to statute and rule to clarify specific areas.

In October of 2012, the Naturopathic Board implemented an online renewal system for renewal of licenses. Licensees are required to renew their medical license each year. The response to the online system was very positive with usage close to 85%. Increased efficiency in processing applications is a Board goal. The need for viable technology is key to the ability to carry out the goal. Currently, online renewal of only the medical license is in place, the Board will focus on implementing a complete online renewal process. FY15 agency appropriation is \$177,600. The increase will give the Board the ability to increase efficiency through upgrading to an online renewal process. In July 2014, Board staff began working with ITT to facilitate implementation of online renewals for all license and certificates issued by the Board. Changes are also being made to the agency database, to give staff the ability to automate timeframe tracking for applications and investigations. Completion of these steps will give staff the ability to concentrate on other tasks.

Board Vision

To ensure that all citizens of the State of Arizona feel confident and safe in their choice to obtain health care from a naturopathic physician.

Mission

The primary duty of the Board is to protect the public through the regulation of the practice of naturopathic medicine.

Board Description

The Board carries out the duties of regulating naturopathic physicians by ensuring applicants for licensure and certification meet the mandatory requirements as set out in law. It is overseen by governor-appointed board, consisting of 7 members, 4 physician members and 3 public members. Currently, the board has 2 public member vacancies however, anticipates those vacancies will be filled in FY15. Board staff consists of 1 Executive Director (FTE) and 1 part- time Administrative Assistant.

The Board enforces the regulations by investigating complaints. If the licensee is found to be in violation, action is taken against the licensee by the Board in the form of discipline or revocation of license. If the Board finds the actions by the licensee do not rise to the level of unprofessional conduct, but there are concerns, the Board will take non-disciplinary action against the licensee. If the Board finds insufficient evidence to support the allegations made against the licensee, the Board will dismiss the case. Further, the Board may also investigate allegations made against a student certified by the Board, a graduate certified by the Board, or a medical assistant certified by the Board. The Board may take the same actions against a certificate holder as it does against a licensee.

Strategic Issues

Strategic Issue

Although the Board has instituted an efficient online process for licensure renewals, the process does not include renewals of certificates to dispense, clinical training certificates, preceptor certificates and medical assistant certificates. The Board would like to move forward with implementing an online renewal system that encompasses all license and certificate categories.

Goal

To efficiently process license and certificate applications.

Strategy

Create and implement an online renewal process for all license and certificates issued by the Board.

Performance Measures

- Input: Total number of applications received
- Output: Total number of applications processed
- Outcome: Total number of applicants that renewed online during the FY14 renewal period
- Efficiency: Immediate receipt of renewed license upon submission of renewal online.
- Quality: Licensees can choose to print as many license copies as they like, at any time.

Resource Assumptions

Funding and FTE Summary

Description	FY2015 Approved	FY2016 Approved	FY2017 Estimate	FY 2018 Estimate	FY 2019 Estimate
Full Time Equivalent Positions	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
Other Appropriated Fund	177,600	177,600	177,600	177,600	177,600